



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

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STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 28, 2001

TO: District Directors

FROM: Casey W. Riley, Director
Division of HIV/STD

SUBJECT: HB 1823: Tattoo Parlors and Piercing Salons

The 2001 General Assembly amended Sections 15.2-912 and 18.2-371.3 of the Code of Virginia to require that local ordinances regulating tattooing or body piercing, where they exist, specify procedures for enforcement of compliance with disease control and disclosure requirements and include authorization for unannounced inspections. In addition, persons performing body tattooing or body piercing must comply with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines for universal blood and body fluid precautions and provide clients with disclosure of the risks associated with invasive procedures. A copy of House Bill 1823, which is effective July 1, 2001, is attached.

Please note that this bill does not require localities to regulate tattoo parlors or body piercing, but strengthens regulations where they exist. Please contact me at (804) 786-6267 if you have any questions.

Attachment

c: Robert B. Stroube, MD, MPH
Jeff Lake

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2001 SESSION

CHAPTER 270

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 15.2-912 and 18.2-371.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to tattoo parlors and piercing salons.

[H 1823]

Approved March 15, 2001

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 15.2-912 and 18.2-371.3 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 15.2-912. Regulation of tattoo parlors and body-piercing salons; definition; exception.

A. Any locality may by ordinance regulate the sanitary condition of the personnel, equipment and premises of tattoo parlors and body-piercing salons *and specify procedures for enforcement of compliance with the disease control and disclosure requirements of § 18.2-371.3.*

B. For the purposes of this section:

"Body-piercing salon" means any place in which a fee is charged for the act of penetrating the skin to make a hole, mark, or scar, generally permanent in nature. "Body piercing" does not include the use of a mechanized, presterilized ear-piercing system that penetrates the outer perimeter or lobe of the ear or both.

"Tattoo parlor" means any place in which is offered or practiced the placing of designs, letters, scrolls, figures, symbols or any other marks upon or under the skin of any person with ink or any other substance, resulting in the permanent coloration of the skin, *including permanent make-up or permanent jewelry*, by the aid of needles or any other instrument designed to touch or puncture the skin.

C. This section shall not apply to medical doctors, veterinarians, registered nurses or any other medical services personnel licensed pursuant to Title 54.1 in performance of their professional duties.

D. *Localities requiring regulation of tattoo parlors and piercing salons by ordinance shall include in such ordinance authorization for unannounced inspections by appropriate personnel of the locality.*

§ 18.2-371.3. Tattooing or body piercing of minors.

No person shall tattoo or perform body piercing on a person less than eighteen years of age, knowing or having reason to believe such person is less than eighteen years of age except (i) in the presence of the person's parent or guardian, or (ii) when done by or under the supervision of a medical doctor, registered nurse or other medical services personnel licensed pursuant to Title 54.1 in the performance of their duties.

In addition, no person shall tattoo or perform body piercing on any client unless he complies with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines for "Universal Blood and Body Fluid Precautions" and provides the client with the following disclosure:

1. *Tattooing and body piercing are invasive procedures in which the skin is penetrated by a foreign object.*

2. *If proper sterilization and antiseptic procedures are not followed by tattoo artists and body piercers, there is a risk of transmission of bloodborne pathogens and other infections, including, but not limited to, human immunodeficiency viruses and hepatitis B or C viruses.*

3. *Tattooing and body piercing may cause allergic reactions in persons sensitive to dyes or the metals used in ornamentation.*

4. *Tattooing and body piercing may involve discomfort or pain for which appropriate anesthesia cannot be legally made available by the person performing the tattoo or body piercing unless such person holds the appropriate license from a Virginia health regulatory board.*

A person who violates this section is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. Any second or subsequent violation of this section shall be punished as a Class 1 misdemeanor.

For the purposes of this section:

"Body-piercing" means the act of penetrating the skin to make a hole, mark, or scar, generally permanent in nature. "Body piercing" does not include the use of a mechanized, presterilized ear-piercing system that penetrates the outer perimeter or lobe of the ear or both.

"Tattoo" means to place any design, letter, scroll, figure, symbol or any other mark upon or under the skin of any person with ink or any other substance resulting in the permanent coloration of the skin, *including permanent make-up or permanent jewelry*, by the aid of needles or any other instrument designed to touch or puncture the skin.